

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 24980

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3..O. 11652 N/A

TAGS:OEXC, PFOR, CE

SUBJ:ANURA BANDARANAIKE'S VISIT TO U.S.

REF:COLOMBO 937

1. PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE RAISED ANURA BANDAR-
ANAIKE'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO UNITED STATES WITH
AMBASSADOR DURING MARCH 28 MEETING. SHE INTRODUCED
SUBJECT OF ANURA BY SAYING HER SON HAD ASKED HER TO
EXPLAIN THAT HIS REPORTED REMARKS (REFTEL) SUGGEST-
ING AMERICANS WERE REACTIONARY WAS RESULT OF "PRESS
MISQUOTATION."

2. PRIME MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT SINCE HIS COLLEGE
DAYS IN LONDON ANURA HAD BEEN LONELY UNLESS HE HAD AMPLE
COMPANIOSHIP AND SHE THEREFORE WONDERED WHETHER HE
MIGHT BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS US TOUR BY JAYANTHA
DHANAPALA OF SRI LANKA EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.
DHANAPALA COULD ALSO ACT AS ANURA'S ADVISER, A ROLE
SIMILAR TO THAT FILLED BY MDFA DIRECTOR BALA-
SUBRAMANIAM DURING ANURA'S RECENT VISIT TO NORTH
KOREA AND PRC.

3. AMMASSADOR TOLD PM THAT HE QUITE UNDERSTOOD
ANURA'S DESIRE FOR COMPANIONSHIP DURING HIS VISIT TO
UNITED STATES. HE PERHAPS HAD NOT MADE IT CLEAR,
EITHER TO ANURA OR TO PM, THAT WE DID PLAN TO
HAVE AN AMERICAN ESCORT OFFICER AND WERE THINKING
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OF COUNTRY OFFICER LEADER WHO HAD SERVED IN

COLOMBO AND WAS WELL INFORMED ON SRI LANKA-US RELATIONS. PM SAID SHE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FINE IF AMERICAN ESCORT ACCOMPANIED ANURA BUT PERHAPS DHANAPALA COULD ALSO TRAVEL WITH HIM. AMBASSADOR TOLD HER HE THOUGHT THIS COULD BE ARRANGED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

4. COMMENT: OUR INTERPRETATION IS THAT, ALTHOUGH ANURA MAY IN FACT FEEL NEED FOR COMPANIONSHIP, HIS MOTHER, ON HER PART, BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO HAVE SOMEONE ALONG WHO COULD INSURE THAT HE DOES NOT MAKE STATEMENT WHICH MIGHT PROVE EMBARRASSING. ALTHOUGH YOUNG BANDARANAIKE IS GAINING SELF-CONFIDENCE AND EXPERIENCE, AND GENERALLY HANDLES HIMSELF WELL IN PUBLIC, HE IS SOMETIMES PRONE TO SPEAK WITHOUT WEIGHING POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF HIS REMARKS. WHILE WE REGRET NECESSITY ADD DHANAPALA TO ANURA'S ENTOURAGE, BELIEVE PM'S REQUEST SHOULD BE GRANTED. ONCE IPU DELEGATION DEPARTS COLOMBO, DETAILED SUGGESTIONS FOR ANURA'S VISIT WILL BE SENT DEPARTMENT.
VAN HOLLEN

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